

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/664,807

Examiner

James M. Hewitt

Applicant(s)

NADARAJAH ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the reply filed 6/29/06.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14-16 and 18-19 which will appear as claims 1-5 respectively when the patent issues.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

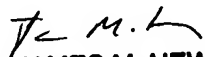
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin Su on 9/14/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 8, lines 6-7, the phrase "its appropriate end-flange body of the matingly engageable terminator body" has been replaced with the phrase --a corresponding end-flange body of the other half sleeve--.

The abstract has been rewritten as follows:

--An apparatus to seal terminal ends of the two half oversized sleeves, positionable on the external circumferential side of affected riser pipes. The apparatus comprises of a pair of flange bodies integral to the two half oversized sleeves and a pair of terminator bodies. Each flange body includes a semi-circular collar with a plurality of bores and a semi-circular lip. The terminator body includes a semi-circular collar with a plurality of bores and a semi-circular recess structured and configured to receive the respective semi-circular lip. Two semi-circular graphite strips are introducible into the

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semi-circular recess. The terminator body is secured against the flange body by tightening of nuts and bolts introduced between the bores in the flange body and the terminator body.--

In the claims:

Claims 1-13 have been canceled.

Claim 14 has been rewritten as follows:

--14. (Currently Amended) A pipe sealing apparatus comprising:

a half sleeve (22) positionable on the external circumferential side of a pipe (20);

a flange body (24) and a terminator body (45), wherein the flange body (24) is integral to the half sleeve (22);

wherein the flange body (24) includes a semi-circular collar (34) with a plurality of bores (36), a wing (38) with an aperture (40) and a semi-circular lip (42);

wherein the terminator body (45) includes a semi-circular collar (46) with a plurality of bores (48), a wing (50) with an aperture (53) and a semi-circular recess (54) dimensioned and configured to receive the semi-circular lip (42); and

wherein a semi-circular graphite body is introducible into the semi-circular recess (54); and

wherein the flange body and the terminator body are securable together and are securable to second flange body and a second terminator body of a second half sleeve by the tightening of nuts and bolts between the apertures (40, 53).--

In claim 15, line 2, "The half sleeve" has been replaced with --The pipe sealing apparatus--.

In claim 16, line 2, "The half sleeve" has been replaced with --The pipe sealing apparatus--.

In claim 18, line 2, "The half sleeve" has been replaced with --The pipe sealing apparatus--.

In claim 18, line 2, "rings" has been replaced with --ring--.

In claim 18, lines 3-4, the phrase "the two...compression pressure" has been replaced with the phrase --the semi-circular graphite body (56)--.

In claim 19, line 2, "The half sleeve" has been replaced with --The pipe sealing apparatus--.

In claim 19, lines 2-3, the phrase "further comprising...serrated strips (26)" has been replaced with the phrase --wherein the serrated strip (26) is engageable with a strip of polytetrafluoroethylene--.

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: the grout/epoxy shown in Figure 5 is to be depicted with the appropriate cross-hatching as outlined in MPEP 608.02 (IX); the metallic rings 60, 62 and 64 and the graphite body are to be clearly shown in Figure 9 and be depicted with appropriate cross-hatching as outlined in MPEP 608.02 (IX). In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

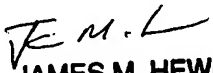
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMH

9/14/06


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER